Announcement of Policy on Bio-Diesel

396. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the experiments conducted so far on the Utilization of Bio-Diesel on Roadways and Railways;

(b) what are the results achieved so far; and

(c) by when Government is likely to announce its policy on Bio-Diesel and what benefit Government propose to extend to the Jatropha growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is conducting trials on a fleet of 20 buses of Haryana Roadways, Gurgaon Depot and on 43 employee buses of Tata motors on 5-10% bio-diesel blends. The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is also conducting similar trials on BEST buses in Mumbai.

The Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO), Lucknow has conducted laboratory tests and field trials by using various blends of bio-diesel. Southern Railways is using 5% bio-diesel blend for running two pairs of passenger trains and two sets of Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMUs),

(b) In the field trials, no operational problem has been observed and fuel economy of roadways buses running on blended diesel was comparable with that obtained from neat diesel. Reduction in smoke with the use of bio-diesel blends was also observed. On the basis of tests conducted by them, RDSO Lucknow concluded that a 10% bio-diesel blend could be used on existing locomotives without any modification.

(c) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas bas announced a Bio-Diesel Purchase Policy under which the public sector oil marketing companies will purchase bio-diesel meeting BIS specifications at Rs. 25 per litre. The Ministry of Agriculture, Govt, of India has initiated a scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds", including Jatropha & Karanja, for bio-diesel production in the country. Under the scheme, 30% assistance is being given to the individual and Non-Govt. Organizations for nursery raising and undertaking plantation of Tree Borne Oilseeds, including Jatropha, subject to maximum of Rs.6.50 lakh.